

Message Text

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NEA/ ARN: DKORN (IN DRAFT)

NEA/ IAI: TMCANDREW (IN DRAFT)

L/ M: HSHAMWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044962

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM OTRA PROR FBOR IS JO

SUBJECT: COURIER SERVICE ACROSS JORDAN RIVER

FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

REF: AMMAN 1070; TEL AVIV 1727, 1840

1. RE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF QUESTION (AMMAN 1070, PARAGRAPH TWO) ARTICLE 27 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PROVIDES FOR THE IMMUNITY FROM SEARCH OF THE DIPLOMATIC BAG AND DIPLOMATIC COURIERS.

2. A. RE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS (SAME REFERENCE), THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION, DESPITE THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 27, TO A ROUTINE INSPECTION OF THE VEHICLE ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED IN TEL AVIV 1727, PARAGRAPH FIVE.

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IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES THAT THE IDENTITY OF COURIERS AND BAGS AND THE INNOCENT PASSAGE OF THE VEHICLE BE ESTABLISHED.

B. THE PRESENT USE OF PRE- FLIGHT INSPECTIONS, INCLUDING ACCOMPANIED PERSONAL EFFECTS OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, AS PART OF AIRLINE ANTI- HIJACKING PROCEDURES PROVIDES ANALOGOUS SITUATION. ARTICLE 27 NOTWITHSTANDING, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DETERMINED THAT U. S. DIPLOMATIC COURIERS SHOULD SUBMIT TO ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, WITH UNDER-

STANDING THAT THEY NOT BE UNDULY DETAINED AND THAT POUCH NOT BE INSPECTED.

3. THE DEPARTITALIAN MANDATE.

3. FORMATION OF " MINI- GROUPS" FOR DRAFTING. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF ACTIVE LOBBYING BY US, CANADA, NORWAY, USSR, AND THE NEUTRALS, EC NINE FINALLY AGREED TO BEGIN PROCESS OF DRAFTING COMMON MANDATES. DRAFTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN OPEN- ENDED " MINI- GROUPS" WHICH WILL MEET INFORMALLY WHILE WORKING GROUP CONTINUES ITS GENERAL DISCUSSION ON EACH BASKET. STARTING MARCH 12, WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE UP PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND CBM' S

4. MINI- GROUP ON MEDITERRANEAN HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON MARCH 8 AND MINI- GROUP ON PRINCIPLES WILL GET UNDERWAY ON MARCH 12. WE DO NOT EXPECT MINI- GROUPS TO WORK QUICKLY AND THEIR FIRST DRAFTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HEAVILY BRACKETED. THERE IS NO AGREEMENT YET ON PRECISELY WHEN THE WORKING GROUP WILL FORMALLY ADDRESS THESE DRAFTS, BUT MOST OF THE ALLIES STRONGLY PREFER THAT THIS NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE WORKING GROUP HAS COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF THE FIRST THREE BASKETS.

5. TIMETABLE. IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS, A GENERAL PREFERENCE IS EMERGING FOR A THREE- WEEK BREAK IN APRIL. THE SOVIETS ARE RELAXED ABOUT THIS, PARTICULARLY SINCE SOVIETS AND FINNS WANT NO RPT NO MPT WHEN BREZHNEV VISITS HELSINKI IN EARLYS APRIL. RECESS WILL MEAN INTENSIVE WORK HERE, PARTICULARLY IN MAY, TO COMPLETE MANDATES AND COVER OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN TIME FOR THE FIRST STAGE MINISTERIAL MEETING, BUT WE AND THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING IT WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT WE ARE STICKING FIRMLY TO LATE JUNE DATE FOR THAT MEETING.
PETERSON

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